Comparative study on aircraft accidents

1061. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence/Indian Air Force have done a comparative study of the aircraft accidents in India and other countries of the world;

(b) if so, what is the comparative aircraft sortie to accident ratio in India and other countries of the world; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not undertaking the study?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information on accident rates of other countries is not available for a comparative study. Moreover, a study would not give a correct picture of aircraft accidents as there are differences in the type of flying carried out, aircraft flown, flying environment, technological advances etc.

Corruption in C.S.D.

1062. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of widespread corruption in the Canteen Stores Department regarding purchase of various items that are canalized through this organization;

(b) if so, whether the norms for the purchase of the alcoholic beverages are consistent with overall purchase policies or whether there are different norms governing such purchases; and

(c) whether the Servicemen are receiving their wide choice of products that are available in the market or whether the Canteen Stores Department purchase organization is restricting the choice through their restrictive purchase policies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) All the purchases in the Canteen Stores Department are made as per laid down norms and policies. However, as and when any case of corrupt practice comes to notice, necessary action is initiated as per rules.

(b) The norms for the purchase of the alcoholic beverages in canteen stores department are consistent with overall purchase policies.

(c) Canteen Stores Department provides wide choice of products keeping in view the requirement of the consumer.

Re-establishment of Ahir Regiment

1063. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to re-establish Ahir Regiment which had been dissolved under the conspiracy for revolting against British Regime; and

(b) if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to raise a separate Ahir Regiment in the Indian Army. The policy of the Government is not to raise any new regiment on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which all Indians have representation.

India-Australia Defence cooperation

1064. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the first week of June, an Australian Naval Ship HMAs Adelaide had docked in Chennai Port for joint naval exercise with the Indian Navy;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to strengthen the relationship between Australia and India for Defence cooperation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?